

9/23/84

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

Harold —
at least I
didn't get
solicited for a
financial
contribution.

National Headquarters
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Norman Dorsen
PRESIDENT

Ira Glasser
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Eleanor Holmes Norton
CHAIR
NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

September 18, 1984

Mr. James H. Lesar
1231 4th St., SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. Lesar:

I asked Allan Adler of our Washington staff to prepare a memorandum for me in response to your letter of September 11 to me and Norman Dorsen. Enclosed is his response to my request. Also enclosed is a copy of Mark Lynch's memorandum of September 7, to which he refers.

I have scrutinized this bill extremely closely and believe that the fears you and others have expressed are based upon inaccurate factual premises about what the bill provides and what its effect will be on current FOIA practice.

We do not believe that H.R. 5164 will result in any loss of information and we do not think anyone has made a credible argument to the contrary. Every fear expressed by critics of the bill was anticipated and the legislation was altered to remove the basis for such fear. I do not mean to sound glib on such an important issue, but the fact remains that we believe we have closed all the loopholes and that no loss of information will result.

On the other hand, the bill provides a modest gain by substantially shortening the time of response by the CIA to information it does release and by derailing the movement to enact broader exemption, including the possibility of a total exemption, which would indeed have resulted in major losses of information.

Sincerely,

Ira Glasser

Ira Glasser

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enclosures